



13 May 2003



SAFETY ALERT - Fatalities

1. This past weekend we lost a USAREUR soldier as the result of an off-duty motorcycle accident. This is the fourth off-duty, soldier-vehicle fatality this fiscal year. We have now lost eight soldiers to accidents this year—eight ruined lives and family tragedies. Added to this are another seven soldier suicides plus four civilian and family member suicides and fatal accidents. I find the loss of 19 soldiers, civilians, or family members alarming!
2. These tragic losses impact families, weaken morale, disrupt unit cohesiveness, and reduce mission readiness. Leaders—corporals to generals—while mourning the loss of these men and women, we must direct our energy toward the prevention of accidents and the well-being of our soldiers, civilian employees, and family members.
3. I charge each of you to press hard through education, awareness, supervision, and risk management to ensure that every soldier and civilian—and through them, their family members—understands the need to include safety in everything they do, whether at work or at home. As leaders, we need to show our subordinates that we mean business when it comes to enforcing the rules of safety; but at the same time, we need to show them that we care.
4. With our current environment of deployments, redeployments, fractured leadership sets, and other missions, I expect in-place leaders to take immediate action to become personally involved in preventing accidental fatalities, suicides, and family violence. Visit our USAREUR Homepage to review my policy letters in these important areas. Be alert for signs of someone in trouble and ensure that anyone who needs help gets it immediately. Our rear detachments must be particularly attentive and ready to focus effective command attention on these critical areas.
5. Our success can be defined only as “No Loss of Life.” To help achieve that success, give this safety alert the widest possible distribution electronically and by posting it on unit bulletin boards. Comply with its requirements.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

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